Today's News - Monday, April 18, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow will be a no-newsletter day (heading out for a morning tour of Industry City on the Brooklyn waterfront!). We'll be back Wednesday, April 20.

- Urist reports on research "investigating the emotional toll of ugly architecture," and the "psychological cost of boring buildings."
- Bakker and Brandwijk dig deep into Medellín's latest mega-project, where public participation is key in building an enormous urban park, upgrading ramshackle homes, and introducing public services and transit in the "remote informal settlements high up at the urban edge."
- Farrelly, on the other hand, minces no words about what she thinks of a "scandalous" government "land-grab" of Sydney's Moore Park to build a stadium: what "sets this nutty scheme apart" is that "no-one wants it."
- Wise wends his way through Abu Dhabi's "cultural Xanadu," a.k.a. Saadiyat Island: "while the museums have all been delayed, the year-old NYU campus is fully operational" (great pix).
- Lamster bemoans that "Dallas architecture is a joke," and finds inspiration in some L.A. architects' "inventive residential projects for all income levels that are good business and that enhance the urban fabric - lessons that Dallas architects would do well to apply themselves."
- Kamin parses a new plan for the Lucas Museum in Chicago that calls for the demolition of "a significant work of mid-20th-century modernism. It is hard to say 'no' to the prospect of 12 new acres of lakefront parkland," but "for every potential plus here, there is a potential minus."
- Keegan calls to push the resent button on relocating the Lucas Museum by demolishing the "landmark quality" McCormick Place East: it's "a bone-headed idea - neither an example of good urban planning or architectural design."
- Miami Beach nixes the Hadid-designed garage: a revised design met the city's budget, but "much of the flare and panache of the original design was stripped down or removed altogether" - now, new proposals will be sought.
- Jahn lops 200 feet off his proposed Chicago skyscraper, so now it's only 73 stories (and NIMBYs have become YIMBYs).
- Elkus Manfredi shaves off more floors and adds setbacks to its proposed "skinny tower" to reduce shadow impacts on the Boston Common - but there's a bigger issue.
- PLP proposes an 80-story wooden skyscraper at the Barbican that "could become London's second tallest building, after The Shard, and the tallest wooden structure in the world."
- 3XN snags its first North American project - a "new vertical neighborhood" for Bayside Toronto on Queens Quay East.
- An uncertain future for Breuer's Central Library in Atlanta: "Although the building is listed on the 2010 World Monuments Watch List of Most Endangered Sites, its fate remains undecided, for now."
- Wood has high hopes that MoMA closing its design galleries won't "mean the death or diminishing importance" of the fields: "If done correctly, the reorganization could elevate rather than diminish the status of architecture and design."
- Eyefuls of Architizer's the 2016 A+Awards (all 200 of 'em!).
- Two we couldn't resist: "fans of Modernist architecture may want to start saving their pennies now" - the Four Seasons is putting everything "up for grabs - even the silverware and banquettes."
- Companies like Macy's, Heineken, and San Pellegrino may have to rethink their logos if Russia gets its way to copyright its "red star" symbol (will we have to toss our Christmas tree stars, too???).

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The Psychological Cost of Boring Buildings: Scientists are investigating the emotional toll of ugly architecture: ...there is indeed evidence that all cities are starting to look the same...But there could be more than an economic or nostalgic price to impersonal retail and high-rise construction: Boring architecture may take an emotional toll on the people forced to live in and around it. By Jacoba Urist- New York Magazine

Medellín's 'Metropolitan Greenbelt' adds public space while healing old wounds: ...was one of the city's most violent areas...latest mega-project: El Cinturon Verde Metropolitano...an enormous urban park...city will upgrade ramshackle homes, and introduce public services and transit options in the remote informal settlements high up at the urban edge...One strength of the Medellín model is public participation. The Jardin Circunvalar is a prime example of what leaders here call "social urbanism." By Stephanie Bakker & Yvonne Brandwijk/Future Cities [images]- Citiscope.org

Moore Park Stadium: scandalous government vandalism: I honestly thought Sydney had finally outgrown its...valuing of everything hard and fast over anything soft and yielding like a place or a tree. I was wrong...everywhere you look, beauty is being turned to ugliness...public delight to private profit. Why are we OK with this? ...land-grab of Moore Park...[is] not what sets this nutty scheme apart. The standout strangeness...is, no-one wants it. By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald

On Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Island, a Cultural Capital Built on Sand: ...once this cultural Xanadu is complete, will anyone come to look at the art? If all goes according to plan, three additional museums and a performing arts center...will follow the Louvre Abu Dhabi...while the museums have all been delayed, the year-old NYU campus is fully operational. By Michael Z. Wise -- Jean Nouvel; Norman Foster; Frank Gehry; Rafael Viñoly [images]- Travel + Leisure

Dallas architecture is a joke (but it doesn't have to be): Like Dallas, Los Angeles has had its share of residential work that has achieved something close to self-parody...But a generation of L.A. architects...are managing to build inventive residential projects for all income levels that are good business and that enhance the urban fabric...lessons that Dallas architects would do well to apply themselves. By Mark Lamster -- Michael Maltzan; Lorcan O'Herlihy/LOHA Architects; Bestor Architects; Frederick Fisher Architects [images]- Dallas Morning News

Lucas Museum Episode II: Public space strikes back: A billionaire movie mogul...and a powerful mayor...have been forced to back off their original plan and are now floating a new one...The brooding [McCormick Place]...a structural tour de force and a significant work of mid-20th-century modernism...It is hard to say "no" to the prospect of 12 new acres of lakefront parkland...For every potential plus here, there is a potential minus. By Blair Kamin -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects; C.F. Murphy Associates (1971)- Chicago Tribune

Let's pause and push reset on this whole Lucas lakefront deal: ...new scheme to demolish McCormick Place East and put the Lucas Museum there is a bone-headed idea...neither an example of good urban planning or architectural design...McCormick Place...shouldn't be there. But it is, and...of remarkable architectural quality...it's time to...find a better location than just moving it one site over and destroying a landmark quality structure. By Edward Keegan -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects; C.F. Murphy (1967); Helmut Jahn; Preservation Chicago/Ward Miller- Crain's Chicago Business

Miami Beach nixes Zaha Hadid garage in Collins Park: The final version of the design met the city's budget...But commissioners did not like the pared-down design...much of the flare and panache of the original design was stripped down or removed altogether...commission voted to start over and solicit new proposals for a garage that would incorporate some workforce housing above it. -- Berenblum Busch Architecture [images]- Miami Herald

Helmut Jahn's latest Chicago skyscraper loses 200 feet in height: ...bringing the height to 832 feet with 73 stories...staggered stacked cube concept was scrapped, replaced by sinuous curves and triangular planes...Community reaction to the new concept has been overwhelmingly positive... [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Developer scales back ‘skinny tower’: ...has shaved off more floors from the building - again...a stepped-back design to the top to reduce shadow impacts on the Boston Common...The bigger issue, though, is the rapid pace of development in that part of the city. -- Elkus Manfredi Architects [images]- Boston Globe

PLP Architecture proposes London's first wooden skyscraper at the Barbican: ...300-metre-tall...80-storey Oakwood Tower...If realised, it could become London's second tallest building, after The Shard, and the tallest wooden structure in the world. Up to 1,000 new homes could be included... [images]- Dezeen

Hines and Tridel Select Danish Architects 3XN for Next Phase of Bayside Toronto: Images and Details of New Vertical Neighbourhood on Water's Edge on Queens Quay East: ...will be the next residential phase...following the successful launch of Aqualina and Aquavista...designed by Arquitectonica. -- Kirkor Architects [images]- Canada NewsWire (CNW)

Future uncertain for Marcel Breuer’s Central Library in Atlanta: ...like so many Brutalist structures, is now in jeopardy. It wasn’t always this way...Although the building is listed on the 2010 World Monuments Watch List of Most Endangered Sites, its fate remains undecided, for now. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Closing the MoMA's Dedicated Design Galleries: New Opportunities or Foreclosed Possibilities? Critics fear that the shift...will mean the death or diminishing importance of architecture and design...The real battle may be about carving space in the exhibition program rather than just a fight over one's own gallery space...If done correctly, the reorganization could elevate rather than diminish the status of architecture and design...I hope...this is what comes to pass. By Marty Wood- Metropolis Magazine

The Best of the Best: Announcing the Winners of the 2016 A+Awards: The result? A spectacular celebration of incredible architecture and brilliant products...Over 200 total winners. [images]- Architizer

Four Seasons Restaurant Will Auction Off Its Iconic Interiors This Summer: ...located in the iconic Seagram Building...everything in the restaurant is up for grabs..."even the silverware and banquettes"...fans of Modernist architecture may want to start saving their pennies now. -- Philip Johnson; Mies van der Rohe; Ada Louise Huxtable; L. Garth Huxtable- Curbed New York

Russia's Communist Party Want Red Star Symbol Copyrighted: ...and to ban foreign companies - such as Heineken brewery or Macy's department stores - from using the image on their logos- The Moscow Times (Russia)

ANN feature: Zaha. A special issue: I didn’t know Zaha Hadid. We met once - in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, of all places. My encounter with her left an indelible impression. By Kristen Richards- ArchNewsNow.com

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